

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1293

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John G. Love, Sr., of Johnson City.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John G. Love, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Love was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a native of Erwin, John Love was the son of the late Walter Lee Love and Amelia A. Miller Love; and

WHEREAS, the Love family owned a dairy farm known as "Sandy Bottom," and it was in the dairy business that Mr. Love held his first job: working with his father to manage the "Love Dairy Milk Route"; and

WHEREAS, a proud and honorable veteran of the United States Army, John Love first enlisted during World War II, during which he served in the Pacific Theater. While on Okinawa, he was placed in charge of the entertainment, recreation, and food services for the soldiers, in which position he managed to procure the only ice cream maker and movie projector for his fellow soldiers; and

WHEREAS, following his discharge from the Army, whereupon he received the Meritorious Citation award, Mr. Love joined his family on their dairy farm in Pennsylvania, until they relocated once again to Unicoi County; and

WHEREAS, a talented realtor and appraiser, John Love co-founded the Tennessee Real Estate Company, which was later renamed John G. Love, Sr., Real Estate; and

WHEREAS, in 1961, he served as the Vice President of the first Board of Realtors of Johnson City and he also dedicated his valuable time and energies to the Northeast Tennessee Association of Realtors, the Tennessee Association of Realtors, and the National Association of Realtors. He was appointed by Governor McWherter to serve on the Tennessee Real Estate Commission, and he stood as that body's Chairman for two terms; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong Democrat, John Love was twice elected to serve as the Mayor of Johnson City, during which tenures he organized the First District of Mayors' Association, serving as the new organization's first President, and actively promoted Johnson City; and

WHEREAS, to honor his service to the citizens of Johnson City, Mayor Love was invited by President Carter to Washington, D.C., in fitting recognition of the city's accomplishments under his leadership. Those accomplishments include the establishment of one of the first mass transit systems for the handicapped and an honorable mention in the All-American City contest; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Love also served as the campaign manager for several Democratic candidates for national and state offices, and entered the gubernatorial race of 1982; and

WHEREAS, a firm believer in the importance of civic and community involvement, John Love was a member of the East Tennessee State University Foundation, a trustee of Milligan College, and a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion, the Kiwanis Club, and the local Masonic lodge; and

WHEREAS, a gifted leader, he stood as the Chairman of the Johnson City/Jonesborough/Washington County Industrial Commission, as the Director and a member of the Planning Commission of the Tennessee Municipal League, as a Director and the Chairman of the Board of Commerce Union Bank, as a Director and Treasurer of the First Tennessee-Virginia Development District, as an Honorary Chairman of Sister Cities International, as Vice President of the Industrial Council, as a member of the Tri-Cities Industrial Commission, and as a member of the United States Subcommittee on Community Development; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Love was an active and devout member of the Downtown Christian Church, which he served faithfully for many years as a member, trustee, and elder; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, John Love enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Etta Morgan Love, and will be sorely missed by his children and their spouses, C. Melissa Love, Amelia Mickey and David Tyer, Linda Love, and Steven J. and Debbie Love; his stepsons, Tim Mayer and David Mayer; and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his son, John G. Love II; his brothers, Argle, Wayne, and Gene Love; and by Steven Walter Love II; and

WHEREAS, John Love, Sr., leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of John G. Love, Sr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Love.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.